



St. Mary's C.E. Primary School  
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7<sup>th</sup> November 2024

Dear Families,

The second half term of the academic year is well underway and we are very busy here at St Mary's, refining our new curriculum to ensure the children maximise the progress they are making and it is as exciting and engaging as possible!

Next week we will be holding our third multi faith week. This is intended to celebrate the UK's religious diversity and strengthen ties between communities that follow different faiths and religious beliefs. It aims to:

- encourage greater interaction between different faith communities through learning and cooperation;
- develop integrated neighbourhoods;
- celebrate shared values between different faith communities;
- promote understanding and tolerance between people with religious and non-religious beliefs.

This is also a specific target for St Mary's, set at the previous Ofsted inspection in 2019: pupils develop their knowledge and understanding of other religions. In class, the children will be learning about different religions and this will be captured in our Celebration assembly on Friday 8<sup>th</sup> November, in which classes will share what they have learnt. Families are warmly welcomed to attend this but please be aware not all children will be presenting.

Next week nationally it is 'Anti-Bullying' week. In November every year, Anti-Bullying Week takes place. To mark this, a super special day called 'Odd Socks Day' takes place on Tuesday 12<sup>th</sup> November. **Odd Socks Day** is all about embracing and celebrating people's differences.

We are inviting the children to take part in 'Odd Socks Day'. All you need is a pair of odd socks, and you're ready to join in the celebrations. You can be as creative as you like with your socks! The idea for this day in Anti-Bullying Week is to get children to express themselves fully, without any fear of judgement from others. Wearing funky socks may seem like a very small way to do this, but its overall impact can be huge. We will also be discussing this in school and year 3 will be taking part in an anti-bullying workshop today with 'Christian's in Schools' which I am sure will be both enjoyable and worthwhile.

The Eco council and Mrs Moran are leading a home school challenge called, 'Cut your Carbon'. Tomorrow, everyone will be bringing home 6 challenges to try. Please return the sheets to Mrs Moran at the end of the month as we have a chance to win a school prize.

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Attendance and punctuality remain a high priority both nationally and at St Mary's. Every moment in school counts, and days missed add up quickly. The higher a pupil's attendance, the more they are likely to learn, and the better they are likely to perform in exams and formal assessments. The register is taken at 8.50 and any children arriving after 8.55 will receive a late mark. Registration time is a vitally important time where children settle for the day, reinforce previous learnt skills and teaching assistants take small groups to support them with their learning. To keep you updated on this as part of our attendance procedures, banded letters will be sent out the week commencing Monday 9<sup>th</sup> December, detailing your child's attendance percentage. If we can support with this in any way please let us know.

Finally, we are holding school tours for the new reception intake, on Thursday 14<sup>th</sup> November and Thursday 5<sup>th</sup> December 2:00-2:30. I will be leading a tour of the school and grounds, providing the opportunity to ask any questions. If you know anyone who would be interested in joining one of our school tours, please contact the school office to confirm a place.

If you have any issues or thoughts regarding anything raised in the letter, please speak to your child's class teacher or myself who are both visible before and after school. Additionally, please visit the school website for what your child is learning in each curriculum area, class newsletters and our updated school calendar.

With the warmest wishes,

Mrs Faryniarz